



THE LATIN SCHOOL

REGISTER.

MARCH, 1889.

Vol. VIII. No. 7.

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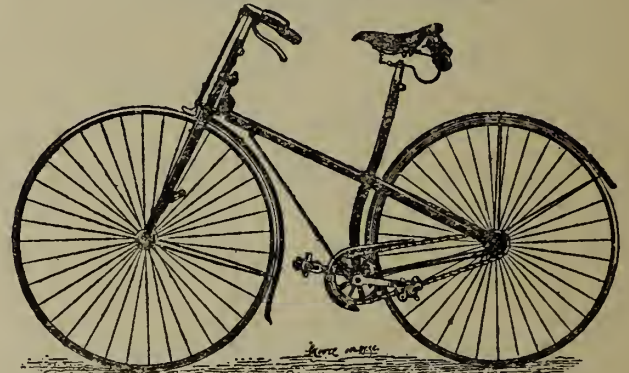
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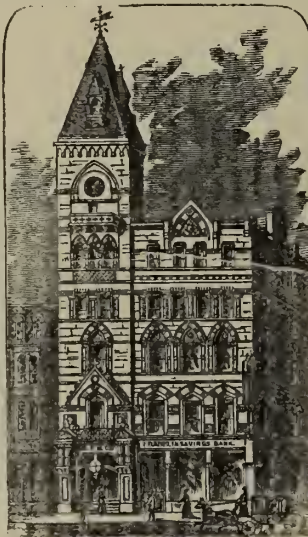
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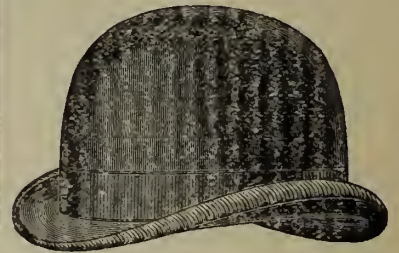
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VOL. VIII.

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No. 7.

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EDITOR'S DESK.

The missing numbers of the REGISTER, wanted for the Public Library, have all been collected except that dated October, 1885. It is Vol. V, No. 1. There is a copy numbered Vol. V, No. 1, but it is dated 1886. The one that is missing is dated 1885.

The following class officers have been elected for the class of '89: President, G. E. Hume; Vice-President, H. F. Blake; Secretary-Treasurer, D. S. Muzzey; Orator, C. I. Quirk; Poet, J. H. Hickey; Toastmaster, H. E. Sears; Historian, R. M. Merrick; Executive Committee, W. J. H. Strong, W. P. Bullard, D. S. Muzzey, A. N. Broughton, T. F. Ray, and J. J. Dolan.

It is always pleasant to hear from old members of the school. We shall be glad to print communications from them of interest to the present members. We give below an extract from such a letter:

OAKLAND, CAL., Mar. 10, 1889.

To the Editor of the REGISTER:—

Having been a member of the B. L. S. up to last June, I take a great interest in the school and its doings. On account of business that my father had out here we left unexpectedly, so I had no opportunity of saying farewell to my teachers and fellow-students.

I am in the Senior A class of the Oakland

High School, the finest preparatory school on the Pacific Coast, and shall enter the University of California next September. Of course this school can't come up to the B. L. S., but is very good for a high school.

Please send all the numbers of the REGISTER that are printed as soon as possible. I am anxious for news of the school.

Yours truly,

JOS. J. MEDROS.

SPORTING.

On Saturday, March 16th, delegates from preparatory schools about Boston met at the club house of the Boston Athletic Association and formed a league called the Interscholastic Base Ball Association. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, J. M. Kendrick, B. L. S.; Vice-President, T. E. Sherwin, Roxbury Latin; Secretary, H. D. Wintering, Chauncy Hall; Treasurer, R. B. Beals, Roxbury Latin.

In order that there may not be too many games for each club to play, some of the schools have combined. The following is a list of the nines: English High, Chauncy Hall, Boston Latin, Roxbury Latin, Hopkinson's, Cambridge High and Latin combined, Noble's and Hale's combined, and Nichols's and Brown's combined. Each team will play one game with every other team, making seven games for each club.

About forty gentlemen, all graduates of Harvard, have offered a handsome silver pitcher to be competed for by the teams above mentioned. Mr. Willard, captain of Harvard's nine, has offered a prize to be played for by the winning team of the Exeter-Andover series and the winning team of the Interscholastic Association, or a team made up of the best players of the whole Association.

Below is a schedule of the games for our nine:

B. L. S. vs. Noble and Hale's, . . May 3
B. L. S. vs. Hopkinson's, . . . May 10

B. L. S. vs. Roxbury Latin, . . . May 14
 B. L. S. vs. English High, . . . May 17
 B. L. S. vs. Cambridge High & Latin, May 24
 B. L. S. vs. Chauncy Hall, . . . May 27
 B. L. S. vs. Brown and Nichols's, May 31

The grounds for the above games will be arranged before our next issue.

Quirk, Kendrick, and Gallivan represented B. L. S. at this meeting.

A meeting of the Interscholastic Association of Amateur Athletes of New England was held on Saturday, March 2d, at the rooms of the B. Y. M. C. U. Up to that time Roxbury Latin, Hale's, Hopkinson's, English High, and Worcester Academy had joined the Association, and it was decided to leave membership open to the following schools until May 1st, and to give them all privileges of the Association up to that time. The schools are Exeter and Andover Academies, Newton High, Cambridge High and Latin, and the B. L. S. The elections of officers resulted as follows: President, R. B. Beals, Roxbury Latin; Vice-President, F. C. Green, Hale's; Secretary, D. W. Lane, B. L. S.; Treasurer, G. C. Lee, Hopkinson's; and Executive Committee, W. F. Boos, E. H. S., R. D. Brown, Worcester Academy, S. M. Brice, Exeter Academy, and A. N. Broughton, B. L. S.

The annual convention of the Association will be held upon the first Saturday in March of each year. The annual field-meeting will be held on the afternoon of the first Saturday in June of each year. Below is a list of the events which will occur at the field-meeting: running one-hundred yards; running two-hundred yards; running one-quarter mile; running one-half mile; hurdle racing one-hundred and twenty yards, ten hurdles, three feet six inches high; walking one mile; running high jump; running broad jump; pole leaping; putting the shot, sixteen pounds; throwing the hammer, twelve pounds; bicycle racing, one mile; throwing the base ball.

A cup has been offered to this Association, which will be awarded to the school winning a plurality of first prizes, or if two schools win an equal number of first prizes it will be awarded to the one having the greater number of second prizes, and in case of a tie in second prizes the cup will be held by the

Association, unless one of the schools held the championship the previous year, in which case that school will hold it.

About sixty members of the three upper classes met on Thursday, March 21st, and took measures for forming an athletic association. Dr. Merrill presided at the meeting, and a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution, and make other necessary preparations. The committee consists of F. U. Stearns (chairman), A. N. Broughton, D. W. Lane, B. G. Waters, and N. Anthony. The meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, March 27th, when the report of the committee is to be heard.

A number of candidates for the nine have been practising, when the weather permitted, for the past three weeks. Captain Quirk says that the outlook for success is very good. Since a cup has been offered to the Association every possible effort ought to be made to secure it. The subscriptions have been quite liberal, but there are still too many who do not take interest enough in the sport to part with any money.

MILITARY.

Below is the record of prizes taken at the two drills open to members of the School Regiment since our last issue:

	1st Prizes	2d Prizes
B. L. S.	3	2
E. B. H. S.	1	0
M. H. S.	1	0
M. I. T.	1	0
E. H. S.	0	2

The first of the two prize drills occurred in Charlestown, Friday, March 8th. The prizes were classified and awarded as follows:—

FOR 1ST YEAR DRILLERS (One Prize).

Priv. H. M. Gordon, Co. C, 5th Reg. M.V.M.

FOR HIGH SCHOOLS OF STATE.
 (Two Prizes.)

1st Prize . . 1st Serg. L. J. Smith, B. L. S.
 2nd " . . . Serg. E. P. Hervey, B. L. S.

FOR CHAMPIONSHIP OF STATE.
 (Two Prizes.)

1st Prize . . Sergeant Adams, M. I. T.
 2d " . . . " Bertram Lord, E. H. S.

The second drill was the one held at the armory of Battery A, on Friday, March 15th.

As this building is nearer home, the attendance was larger and great enthusiasm prevailed throughout the evening. The dance afterward was a very important feature of the evening's entertainment, and was free to spectators. Through the courtesy of the management, supper was served to all,—(who had the requisite remuneration therefor, vulgarly termed "boodle"). Altogether the evening was pleasantly passed, and the fact that the B. L. S. captured three of the six prizes was certainly less discouraging to our men than it must have been to our struggling rivals in the E. H. S., who sometimes drill pretty well, considering.

The prizes were thus awarded:—

1st YEAR DRILLERS (One Prize).

Private Shedd M. H. S.

NON-PRIZE TAKERS (Two Prizes).

1st Prize Serg. P. F. Dolan, E. B. H. S.

2nd " " P. W. Whittemore, B. L. S.

OPEN TO ALL (Two Prizes).

1st Prize Serg. P. W. Whittemore, B. L. S.

2nd " " Bertram Lord, E. H. S.

The Sword Contest was entered by nine officers, of whom one was from the Latin School. Since the sword exercise for prizes is new this year, but few judged themselves able to compete, so the exhibition was rather tame. The prize was justly awarded, however, to Lieut. H. B. Goodnow, B. L. S.

NOTES.

Welcome, Athletics!

First game, May 3d.

Have you sat for your photo yet?

Kendricken, '89, and Waters, '90, will practise football playing at Harvard during the April vacation.

Manager Kendricken is not very well pleased at the amount collected for the support of the ball team. As yet only about one-third of the money necessary for the proper support of the nine has been contributed. Surely a school which numbers as many as this school does should be able and willing to support a good nine. Each should contribute his mite and see the team enter the fray well equipped in every respect.

It has been remarked that the officers of the 3d Battalion seem to put much more interest into the company drill than those of the other battalions. They should be heartily seconded by the sergeants and privates.

On March 25th, the Invincible Guards, Maj. Ella W. Nickerson, gave a reception at Associates Hall, Newton Centre. The programme comprised a battalion drill, competitive drill, sword exercise, and dress parade. The judges were Col. W. J. H. Strong, B. L. S., Lt. Col. W. S. Fretch, E. H. S., and Maj. T. C. Wales, M. I. T.

SPRING OBSERVATIONS.

The little birds now twitter,
As from tree to tree they flitter
In the ever welcome glitter
Of the sunshine poured around.
The mountain streams are prancing,
And from rock to rock are dancing,
With merry sound advancing
Where a river may be found.

The soil sends forth its green,
And the tiny shoots are seen
In aspect fresh and clean
As they meet our joyful gaze.
We can see all Nature smile
If our senses we beguile
In the open air awhile

On these beautiful Spring days.

JOHN J. DOLAN, '89.

Whittemore, Goodnow, Smith, Hervey.
What matter with our drillers? They're all right!

H. G. Smith, formerly of '88, has gone to Italy with his brother, a well known artist of Cambridge, for the winter. During the summer he will travel through Germany, Austria, and Ireland, and will return in time for Thanksgiving.

The sight of three —. —. S. officers in a restaurant, talking of advertisements, suggested the following lines to an active brain:

Three officers one day did go
Some "ads" to try to find;
But advertisers being slow,
They soon did change their mind.
So to a lunch-room went they thence
To see what they should eat;
And after they had viewed their pence
They called
Three "Brown-the-Wheat!"

HARVARD NOTES.

Goodwin, '89, B. L. S. '85, has resigned his position as Secretary of the Harvard Fencing Club.

A. N. Barron, '91, B. L. S. '87, has been elected Treasurer of the Harvard Electrical Club.

The following graduates of the Boston Latin School have been elected officers of Delta Upsilon for the last half of the year:—President, S. R. Dunham; Vice-President, A. M. Morton.

THE BASE-BALL AMATEUR'S DREAM.

I had been reading an account in one of the Sunday papers of a game of ball played in Australia by the "Chicagos" and "All Americas," and was thinking of the astonishment a ghost of fifty years' standing would feel on seeing the improvement made in our national game, when I fell asleep.

Methought I awoke and heard awful curses filling the air, and felt that at the same time somebody was treading on my toes, while some demon or other was pounding my derby over my eyes. In a few moments I perceived that I was in a dense crowd of people near the ticket office of a ball ground, into which crowds were constantly hurrying. The crowds would every now and then pummel one another heartily in their haste to effect an entrance, and occasionally, forgetting their mutual hatred would fall tooth and nail on the unfortunate gate-keepers, who, however, made a gallant stand, aided by the police, their clubs ever exerting a mighty influence and persuasion to peace and quietness when well wielded to the damage of others' heads. Every now and then a burly man would elbow and carve his way through the crowd, and reach the gate; upon which the people would simultaneously overwhelm him, and trample him, fighting bravely but uselessly to hold his own, under their feet.

While I stood thus unoccupied, I noticed by the bill-posters that the "Chicopees," Champions of 2046, and the "Bostons" would to-day play a championship game, and that the game would commence at two o'clock.

Near me stood a short, stout, irascible man,

who would often draw out his watch, and would then, seeing how the time was passing, use such awful profanity that your pompadour, gentle reader, would have stood on end to hear him.

After a vast deal of bustle, he organized a company of desperate men to rush the crowd and storm the gate. Into this I was immediately enlisted.

The word was given and forward we rushed "into the valley of death,"—but I will spare you. Right and left we were buffeted; but finally, with an Indian warwhoop, we managed to rush into the inclosure, victorious, but, alas, at what a cost! Here we stopped to take account of our damages, and it was here that score cards were given to us—for five cents.

Our irascible leader was minus a hat, of his coat but little was left, and he was compelled to wipe the blood off his face on his now tattered trousers—wrecks of their former beauty and symmetry. Most of us were in a like condition; and my waistcoat, or at least the front of it, was a thing of the past.

"Now for seats," cried our leader, "Forward!" Like the plagues upon Egypt fell we upon the holders of seats opposite first base, and ousted them.

While the practice was going on, I noticed that the pitcher's box was occupied by a galvanized-iron figure, and that behind the plate was a queer sort of iron box, through which, our leader informed me, the force of the ball was much broken, and it was then rapidly rolled through a broad tube into the catcher's hands.

My observations were much interrupted by the constant stream of spectators filing in; but this ceased after the game was well commenced.

Suddenly I heard a shout of "Play Ball!" from the chief umpire, who was suspended in an iron-grated cage out of the reach of the infuriated players.

I then noticed that there was an umpire to each player in both nines.

A ball was rolled out, and everybody prepared for play.

The Boston pitcher took his stand behind the iron figure, which worked by electricity, and shoved the balls into it. The batsman stood about ten feet from the plate, with his

finger ready to touch the electric knob which controlled his bat. Suddenly the pitcher turned a crank and the ball shot across the plate. "One Ball," said the chief umpire, "take your base." Upon this the whole Boston team came from the field and "kicked." Balls and bats were thrown at the umpire-in-chief, but in vain, for he was protected by the iron grating. After numerous fines they returned to the field grumbling because they had lost their point. The next man was out on one strike, and the people cheered the pitcher, a Frenchman from Cork. The man on first "hugged" his base. One out.

The next man at the bat hit a sky-scraper over second base. I was surprised to see the second baseman rush to his bag, touch an electric button, shoot into the air, catch the ball while it was descending, and touch the man running from first to second, thus making a fine double play. Three out. Bostons at bat. Chicopees in the field.

The first ball pitched was hit, and the runner was neatly put out from short to first.

The pitcher then sent a fine ball over the plate, and the batsman hit it with all his might (by putting in force all the electric power in the bat). The ball was going at a terrible rate over the fence, when to my surprise the centre fielder climbed up a ladder upon the fence, and there caught it. The cheers were numerous and hearty, and well deserved, too, it seemed to me. Our leader then explained to me that the fine out-fielder was Rooney, an ex-mayor, who received \$100,000 yearly by way of salary. Two out.

The next man planted a safe hit, the 2d baseman having over-leaped it, and then tried to steal second.

The ball rolled into the iron box near the plate, down the metallic tube into the catcher's hands. He threw wildly, but Rooney in centre field secured the ball in time to keep the base-runner from stealing third. The pitcher had struck an attitude, when I heard a shout of glee, for he had cleverly "nailed" his man off second.

When play was resumed, the short-stop made a fine stop of a hot bounder, and started to forward it to first. The ball whizzed toward us, the baseman overjumped it, and it was coming straight for me, when I put out my hands to stop it, grasped at it,—and awoke.

D. A. E., '91.

ANIMAL STORIES.

A short time ago the members of the first class had the following exercise in English. They were given ten minutes in which to think up and write some incident connected with an animal. It was either to have happened to themselves or to some one from whom they had heard it, and it was especially stipulated that it should be not something they had read. We give some of the incidents below :

A STORY OF A DOG.

There was once a dog, owned by my grandfather, whose intelligence was very remarkable. I will relate an incident illustrating it.

My grandfather's place was in the country and had connected with it a large lawn on which were two fine, large trees. About three minutes' walk below the house was the home of the hired man. This dog whose story I am telling was accustomed to sleep in a large dog-house beside the barn. One night two horses got away from one of the stables near by and got on the lawn. The dog, knowing this was not right, ran down to the house of the hired man, woke him up, and by his strange actions aroused the suspicions of the hired man. The man dressed himself and went up to the house, and, finding the horses on the lawn, drove them off. This satisfied the dog and he went back to bed.

J. B. G.

AN INCIDENT.

Not long ago the people in a certain part of one of our large western cities were much disturbed by the loss of their milk.

It was the custom of the milkmen to go around with their milk between three and four o'clock in the morning, and leave it in pails set out for the purpose by the people.

Although the losses were sustained, the pails were always found where they had been put the night before. After a time a policeman was set to watch for the thief, and finally he was rewarded by seeing a dog walk up to

a step, take the bail of the milk-pail in his mouth and walk off. The policeman followed him and saw him enter a house in the neighborhood. In a few moments the dog came out with the pail in his mouth and went back to the place where he had taken the pail from and left it. He then went to another house and did the same as before. This time the policeman entered the house after him and found the man who lived there in the act of emptying a pail of milk.

It was afterward found that the man had trained the dog to take the pails and take them back after they were emptied and put them where he had taken them from. It was noticed that he never tried to take a can without a bail.

L. W. G.

A HARD HORSE TO TIE.

A friend of mine had a horse which it was impossible to tie so that he could not get loose. My friend first tied his halter-rope with an ordinary horse-knot; but the animal learned to untie this in less than a week. Next he put a snap fastening on the end of the rope, but the horse had been used to these, so he was found walking around the stable the first morning after it was put on.

My friend learned about all the different kinds of knots we boys knew, and none of them bothered the horse more than two or three nights. At last he tried a bowline.

This held him for about two weeks. But he was not to be conquered, and at last he overcame even this.

We were in despair, but a bright idea came to my friend, and we spliced the rope to the ring, and tied the end to the halter. He never was able to unravel the splice, and our difficulties were at an end.

T. H. S.

THE EDUCATED GOAT.

One day as I was going home I saw a man standing in Park Square holding a goat by a chain. In his hand he carried numerous placards on which were printed various words and numbers. He was amusing the crowd by an exhibition of the goat's cleverness. In answer to the question "Will Cleveland be re-elected?" the goat picked out "No" from the various cards scattered over the sidewalk. "How many days in the week?" brought forth the placard "7." When asked if Harrison was to be the next president the goat picked out "Yes;" so you see the goat was a fortune-teller as well as a reader. A policeman, however, interrupted all further exhibition, and I was forced to "move on."

J. J. D.

B. H. S. VS. H. A.

Bugleville was a town of some fifteen hundred inhabitants, situated on the left bank of the Black Bass River. One year before our story opens the Bugleville High School was completed, and great was the pride of the townspeople at the square brick structure, with its one room. Across the river, a mile down the stream, stood Horneville. It, too, had a high school, the Horneville Academy, which boasted an attendance of forty-two pupils, and a boy who recited Latin twice a week, while the Bugleville High School had only forty-two. Loudly did the H. A. boys crow over the B. H. S. on the ground of superiority of numbers, but the B. H. S. retorted by claiming that by actual count their building contained sixty-four bricks more than did the H. A. Moreover the bell on the B. H. S. could be heard in Horneville, as Jonas Dix, the acknowledged leader in all athletic sports at Bugleville, scrupulously reminded Joseph Hicks, who held a like reputation in Horneville, every time they met; while the bell on the H. A. was cracked and could scarcely be heard at the limits of the town.

This spirit of rivalry entered into all the relations between these two institutions, and when the H. A. beat the B. H. S. by half a boat's length in the race in June, and the B. H. S. beat the H. A. by a score of 2 to 0, with three men on bases when Joseph Hicks made a phenomenal, running, left-handed catch of Jonas Dix's long fly to centre; when this was the state of affairs, the intense interest which hovered about the football game to come in November, could be equalled only by that felt by members of the Boston Latin School before the game with the Cambridge High and Latin Combination.

At the boat-race the B. H. S. thought that the H. A. had taken an unfair advantage by having as their coxswain one of the teachers, a recent graduate of Yale. The H. A. pointed out that there was nothing in the challenge to forbid it, and an arrangement was made by which every one connected with either school was allowed to take part in any of the contests.

One Friday morning in October it was evident from the manner in which the pupils

gathered in groups about the steps of the Bugleville High School and engaged in earnest conversation that something unusual was about to happen. Jonas Dix was the centre of one of these groups, and he was questioning Guy Longdon, a little boy who was swelling with importance, partly at being addressed by Dix and partly at knowing more than any one else about the all-absorbing object of interest.

"Tell us all you know about him," said Dix to Longdon; and after much stuttering and repetition Guy declared that the new teacher (for he was the innocent cause of all this confusion) was a short but broad-shouldered man, apparently about twenty-four years old. Just at this moment a stranger was seen coming in at the gate, and Longdon whispered to Dix, "That's him!" With a pleasant "Good morning" Mr. Black put the key in the lock and attempted to unlock the door. A titter arose, but as Mr. Black looked around and cast one glance of his gray eyes on those in front, it died away. Earnestly hoping to avoid a scene as early as this he looked closely at the door and noticed that the lock looked as if it had not been used for some time. On looking more carefully he saw that the real keyhole had been covered with paper of the same color as the door, while the one he had tried was an old one which had been stopped up by some mischievous boys six months before. He smiled and said to himself that there would be trouble before night, but that by Monday all would go smoothly.

On entering the room he saw forty-two desks facing the east, and his own desk on a platform raised about six inches from the floor. He had never taught school before, but he knew that the sun would come in conveniently for boys with mirrors. The seats were soon filled, and at nine o'clock he began the exercises.

The day went very smoothly until half past ten, when a small scrap of paper was handed from desk to desk. It bore this legend: "At 11, scrape." Mr. Black took no notice of the paper, but waited for developments. As the hand reached eleven o'clock a slight movement of the feet, hardly noticeable, began at the back of the room. It grew louder and soon nearly every one was scrap-

ing his feet vigorously on the floor. Mr. Black rose and said:

"We'll keep our feet as still as may be." That was all. The scraping ceased, with the exception of that caused by Derf Walters in the south-west corner of the room.

"Walters, you may stop that scraping," said Mr. Black. Walters made no reply but kept on scraping. Mr. Black slowly walked down to Walters, amid a silence broken only by the boy's feet, grasped him by the collar, and dragged him up in front of the school. Walters was considerably taller than the teacher, and the effect would have been very judicious to the scholars if they had not been anxiously watching to see what would happen next.

"You may leave the building, Walters." Walters made no movement. Mr. Black took hold of him and attempted to push him out, but he turned and grappled with the teacher, when, as quick as a flash, the boy found himself on his back. He rose but was down again in an instant. A slight smile was perceptible on the teacher's lips as he said:

"Walters, will you leave the building until you get your breath?"

Walters went out. There were no more attempts against the good order of the school, and Mr. Black gradually won the admiration of the scholars, as he had won their respect by his prompt action in regard to Walters. The latter came in about a half an hour after he had gone out, and went to his seat.

On dismissing school Mr. Black requested Walters and Dix to remain. They did so, and he began by mentioning the football match about to come off. He drew the boys on to talk, and learned that they were anxious as to the result.

"When are you going to practise again?" asked Mr. Black.

"To-morrow morning at nine and afternoon at two," said Dix.

"I shall come to watch you, and if you will permit, perhaps I shall take part."

"We should be very glad to have you, Mr. Black. I hope you have a canvas, for some of our boys are pretty rough," said Walters.

"Oh, yes. I used to play football, and I

thought I might find some opportunity to keep up my practice."

Not one word had been said about Walters's actions during school. Just as they were leaving the school-house he said to Mr. Black, "I stayed after school expecting a severe censure for my misbehavior, Mr. Black. Your kindness in not mentioning it has brought me to my senses. I am very sorry for my conduct, and I assure you, you will have no more trouble from me this year."

"I hoped that you would be the first to speak of it, Walters. Now since you are on the regular football team of the school, I will show you how I laid you on your back this morning."

Mr. Black then showed Dix and Walters the peculiar twist, which to one who did not know it was irresistible.

"I learned it from a tramp whom I had befriended. He said that he had nothing else with which to repay me, but I consider this of more value than anything else he could have given me. To-morrow we'll teach the other members of the team, and I think that our success in the match will be helped on. Good afternoon."

The next morning when Mr. Black appeared on the field, there was a crowd of about fifty boys; for some of those who did not attend the B. H. S. took part in the practice games. The regular eleven played against the whole field. Walters and Dix were half-backs. Dix was captain, and he had filled all the positions with good men, except full-back. Mr. Black offered to play there for the time being. The ball was given to the crowd, and the fun began. Several young men of the town, hearing that the new teacher was going to play football with the boys, had come out to look on, but they had been induced to play on the side of the crowd. They were great, strong fellows, who knew nothing of football, but when it came to a scrimmage they were of as much use as any one. One of them got the ball, and with the whole field following at his heels, broke through the regular team by brute strength. He laughed at Walters, who was running towards him, but when he found himself lying on his back with Walters and Dix tearing the ball out of his hands, his laugh changed to a look of dismay.

So it was for half an hour, when they stopped for rest. Only two men had got through the half-backs, and these Mr. Black attended to. He had also kicked the ball three times, and to say that the crowd was amazed would be faint praise. Dix requested Mr. Black to take the position of full-back, and also to give the team the benefit of his knowledge in fine points. Accordingly the new teacher gained at once a position on the team and the hearts of all persons connected with the school.

He first taught, with the aid of Dix and Walters, the irresistible twist, making the boys promise that they would show it to no one until after the match.

Then the wedge was arranged so that every man knew his position and could get into it in the least possible time. Stout Harry Galter, a boy whom it was next to an impossibility to throw, made the point of the wedge.

(To be continued.)

PROGRESS IN ASTRONOMY.

W. S. BANGS.

No theory regarding the origin of the solar system and planetary evolution that has thus far been advanced, gives a more adequate explanation than the "nebula hypothesis," presented to the world by Laplace in the eighteenth century and handed down to the nineteenth. It teaches "that the earth existed originally as part of a vast nebula, which was the parent of the solar system; that this nebula gradually contracted and condensed, throwing off the planets, one by one, some of which in turn threw off satellites; and that its central portion, condensed perhaps to the fluid state, exists at present as the glorious, heat-giving sun." Although this theory has never been wholly superseded, nevertheless it manifestly fails to account satisfactorily for many well known phenomena. Helmholtz's theory of solar energy, advanced in 1854, is the one now generally accepted. He explained the sun's radiation of heat to be the direct result of the contraction incident on cooling. At the present rate of contraction, according to Langley, the sun will be of the earth's present density in seven million years, at which density it could scarcely be a luminous body.

Various other theories accounting for the sun's energy have been advanced, to all of which the same objection applies, namely, that they attempt to make the sun do its work without waste, which is contrary to one of nature's laws and to one of the cardinal principles of modern science,— "*Ex nihilo nihil fit.*"

Not much attention was given to the peculiarities of comets until the eighteenth century. Indeed, they were regarded even as late as the sixteenth century as fearful prodigies foretelling war and pestilence. During the eighteenth century there were a few discoveries made, the chief one being that comets' movements are regular and calculable. Although there was little progress in actual investigation, great advance was made in the methods of research by Olbers, a German physician. One of the questions still undecided is what causes the variations in the motions of the comets. In 1880 the theory of a "resisting medium" was considered to be pretty firmly established, but more recent researches have rather shattered this hypothesis. From observations conducted before 1850, two important facts were learned: that the matter of which comets is composed is extremely tenuous; and that there exist "short period" comets, which seem to be in a state between planets and true comets.

We find that the spectroscope has been as useful with regard to comets as it has been with regard to the other celestial bodies. In 1864 Donati discovered by spectrum analysis, that comets are, to a large extent, self-luminous and do not shine by reflected light, as had been previously believed. In 1872 it was demonstrated that this light was not due to heat but to electricity of very low intensity. From the comets that have appeared since 1880, we learn that groups of them pursue each other in nearly the same paths, at intervals of several years; that comets are not appreciably retarded by the sun's corona; and that their chemical composition is very complex. Although there has been much speculation of late concerning the origin of comets, no satisfactory explanation has yet been given.

No feature of the progress of astronomy is more interesting than the history of the invention and construction of astronomical instruments, through the agency of which the many marvellous discoveries in the science have been made. Herschel's telescopes and

the immense reflector of the Earl of Rosse are among the greatest mechanical achievements of modern times. Lord Rosse's instrument still continues to hold its place as the monarch of reflectors, but it has now an equal if not a superior in the Lick refracting telescope lately erected in California. The new observatory built for the reception of this colossal instrument is the best equipped in the world, and, together with the telescope itself, is a grand triumph of American mechanical skill. The establishment has been several years awaiting the completion of lenses, great difficulty having been experienced in casting the crown glass disc, which was successfully done after nineteen failures.

One of Galileo's contemporaries, on being informed of the completion and success of that astronomer's simple instrument, which magnified three times, exclaimed, "What advantage will he gain by his opticle tube? Things invisible to the naked eye do not exist." But the utility of telescopes has year by year increased, and the steady progress that has been made in their efficiency has culminated in the Lick telescope, which enables us to see a star that is thirty thousand times fainter than the faintest discernible with the naked eye. From the many difficulties experienced in procuring material for and in constructing these large instruments, it is very probable that the limit of telescopic improvement has been well-nigh reached.

During the last thirty years two important adjuncts to the telescope have been perfected. These are spectroscopic and photographic apparatus. The utility of the spectroscope has already been mentioned. The two chief advantages of the photographic camera are: that it enables us to retain, almost indefinitely, impressions which otherwise would exist for only a fraction of a second on the retina of the eye; and that the chemical plate is sensitive to the rays emanating from objects beyond the power of any telescope to reveal.

As in the last hundred years the field of astronomy has been continually widening, numerous complications have arisen on every side to perplex the astronomer. Established theories regarding such familiar bodies as the sun, moon, and even the earth, seem in danger of falling to pieces under the light of modern research. Says a recent writer on astronomy: "What has been done is little—is scarcely a beginning; yet it is much in comparison with the total blank of a century past. And our knowledge will, we are easily persuaded, appear in turn the merest ignorance to those who come after us. Yet it is not to be despised, since by it we reach up groping fingers to touch the hem of the garment of the Most High." DOLABELLA.

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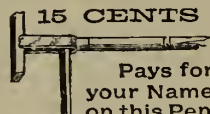
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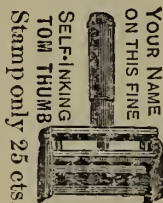
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